

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-04 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 AGR-05 HEW-02 DODE-00 AID-05 /056 W

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R 220700Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

SECSTATE WASHDC 5594

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 2864

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINT, EGEN, TU

SUBJ: POPPY STRAW PROCESSING PLANT

REF: ISTANBUL 2824

1. IN FOLLOW-UP OF OCT. 05 CALL REPORTED REFTTEL, ABBOTT GENMGR NELSON SHOWED US TELEGRAM HE RECEIVED FROM ABBOTT HEADQUARTERS CHICAGO, WHICH INTER ALIA REPORTED ABBOTT HAD QTE FULL CLEARANCE FROM DEPT. OF STATE TO INVESTIGATE PROJECT END QTE AND OPINED THAT ABBOTT WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE QTE PASSIVE SUPPORT UNQTE FROM STATE FOR ITS PROPOSED INITIATIVE. (WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS NO MENTION IN THIS CABLE OF CONCERN THAT PROJECT MIGHT GO TO EAST EUROPEANS AS NELSON HAD REPORTED TO US.)

2. WE TOLD NELSON THAT EMB. PLANNING ADVISE TURKISH AUTHORITIES OF ABBOTT INTEREST IN POPPY STRAW PROCESSING PLANT AND SAID WE WOULD NOTIFY HIM WHEN APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE. WE ALSO TOLD NELSON WE UNDERSTOOD A BRITISH FIRM WOULD BE MAKING STRAW PROCESSING PROPOSAL TO GOT ON OCTOBER 21.

3. NELSON NOTED ABBOTT HAD A COUPLE OF IRONS IN THE FIRE (PRESUMABLY INFLUENTIAL CONTACTS OR ADVISORS) THROUGH WHICH IT

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COULD PURSUE PROJECT, BUT FIRM WAS ANXIOUS TO KEEP ITS NAME

CLEAN, BOTH WITH AMERICAN AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS IS SUCH A SENSITIVE ISSUE. HE SAID THAT ONCE EMB. HAD REGISTERED ABBOTT'S INTEREST IN PROJECT, COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE OWN APPROACH, AND ASKED FOR EMB. GUIDANCE RE MOST APPROPRIATE GOT OFFICIAL FOR INITIAL DISCUSSIONS.

4. DURING MEETING NELSON QUERIED US CONCERNING AP STORY DATED OCTOBER 10 FROM GENEVA REPORTING TURKISH REQUEST TO UN TO PREPARE ECONOMIC STUDY FOR POSSIBLE POPPY STRAW PROCESSING PLANT WHICH WOULD COST AN ESTIMATED \$12-20 MILLION. WE SAID WE HAD SEEN SAME STORY, BUT HAD NO ADDITIONAL INFO. NELSON SAID IF EMB. HAD ANY INFO ON WHETHER TURKS HAD DONE OR WERE GOING TO DO FEASIBILITY STUDY OR ANY ESTIMATE AS TO SIZE OF PROJECT, ETC. HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING. COMMENTING ON EXISTING ABBOTT POPPY STRFW PLANT IN AUSTRALIA, NELSON NOTED THAT IT UTILIZED POLISH PROCESS WHICH HE BELIEVED ACCOMPLISHED UNDER SOME KIND OF LICENSING ARRANGEMENT WITH POLAND. HE ALSO EXHIBITED GREAT INTEREST IN NAMES OF POTENTIAL ABBOTT COMPETITORS FOR TURKISH FACTORY, BUT WE RESPONDED WE HAD NO RPT NO NAMES OF SPECIFIC FIRMS.
WILLIAMS

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